

J.J.S. Pamphlet 1000 H 3

A LETTER

FROM THE

Worthy Patriarch of Howard Division, No. 26,
E. MOTTISON.

TO THE

GRAND WORTHY PATRIARCH, S. OF T.

•
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX:

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A LETTER

From the Worthy Patriarch of Howard Division, No. 26,
to the Grand Worthy Patriarch, S. of T., of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, Thursday, 9th May, 1867.

Worthy Brother,

I awaited with considerable anxiety the issue to-day of the Official Journal of the Grand Division, because I had anticipated that you would have taken the earliest opportunity after the unprecedented proceedings of Tuesday evening of proclaiming to the Order, that the charter of Howard Division was forfeited. As you have thought proper not to make this public announcement, and have taken no doubt, other means of informing the Brotherhood, I feel it incumbent upon me as the chief officer of the Division to protest against your hasty action. I protest in the name and behalf of the Howard Division, against your exercising the questionable right in summarily depriving a large number of the members of the Order,—without a hearing—of their honors and privileges. I protest against your right in reading certain Resolutions, purporting to have been those passed at the Quarterly Session of the Grand Division held at Berwick, and not giving me when called upon, a copy of them to lay before the Division. I protest against your coming to the Division as a private member—without official ceremony—and declaring the charter forfeited. Whilst I desire to address you in a friendly and respectful manner, I owe it to the disorganized state of Howard Division to declare that, upon you must rest the solemn responsibility if a schism is created in the Order; and if opponents to our principles have reason to doubt the truthfulness of our watchword,—‘Love, Purity and Fidelity.’

That every member of the Order in this jurisdiction, may be fully acquainted with this unfortunate difference, I shall give the facts of the case as I find them recorded upon the Journals of the Division, and leave it to the calm and unbiased judgment of the Order to say whether we have merited the harsh treatment we have received at your hands.

M I N U T E S .

TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 18th, 1866.

At the first meeting of Howard Division, after the close of the Annual Session of the Grand Division, the following resolution was moved by brother McCormick, seconded by brother Flaherty :—

Resolved.—That this Division recommend to the Grand Worthy Patriarch, the appointment of brother James Spike, as Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch for this Division. Passed.

In passing the above resolution, the Division acted in conformity to the official instructions received from the Grand Scribe several years ago, giving the Division the privilege of recommending a brother for the office of Deputy, which privilege has never been annulled.

TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 20th.

Brother J. Heenan presented his commission from the G. W. P. appointing him as Deputy. The following resolution was moved by brother Morrison, seconded by brother Trenaman :—

Whereas this Division has heard brother Heenan's commission read appointing him D. G. W. P., *be it Resolved*.—That this Division respectfully decline receiving him in such capacity, pending communication with the G. W. P. Passed.

TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 27th.

Division received a letter from the G. W. P., which was read.

Moved by brother Morrison, seconded by brother Flayerty :—

Whereas, this Division has heard the letter of the G. W. P. read respecting the appointment of brother Heenan.

Resolved.—That this Division adhere to the action they have taken in not receiving brother Heenan of Chebucto Division, as their Deputy. Passed.

TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 11th.

The Inside Sentinel announced the Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch in waiting. The I. S. was directed to ascertain who the brother was: he reported brother Heenan.

Moved by brother Fielding, seconded by brother Fiddler :—

Resolved.—That we respectfully inform brother Heenan that we cannot receive him as D. G. W. P.

AMENDMENTS MOVED.

Moved by brother Clark, seconded by brother R. Boak, Sr. :—

Resolved.—That our former resolutions relating to the appointment of brother Heenan be reconsidered and that we receive him as Deputy.

Brother Robinson moved, seconded by brother Boutilier, that we lay the subject over till next quarter. Last amendment passed.

TUESDAY EVENING, Jany. 1st, 1867.

- Received second letter from the G. W. P., which was read.

Brother Rev. J. McMurray moved, and brother Clark seconded the following resolution :—

Whereas, for several years past it has been customary for the G.W.P.'s. to appoint as Divisional Deputies, such persons as the subordinate Divisions severally nominated and requested to be so appointed, and whereas the present G. W. P. has departed from this usage, and has appointed a brother from another Division, as the Deputy for Howard Division, instead of the brother nominated by Howard Division.

Therefore, Resolved.—That in the judgement of a large number of members of this Division, it was injudicious and inexpedient to depart from the precedent of many years standing, in relation to this matter, without taking thereupon the opinion and advice of the Grand Division, and that a memorial of this matter of complaint be presented to the Grand Division at its next Session, but that in the mean time, this Division do receive for the ceremony of the installation, the Deputy appointed by the G. W. P.

Further Resolved.—That this Division beg to assure the brother appointed as the Deputy for this Division, that in the action taken in "reference to his appointment, there are no personal feelings entertained towards him."

Brother Russell moved, and brother Fielding seconded the following amendment :—

Resolved.—That as the G. W. P. is expected in the city shortly, we defer further action in this matter until his arrival. Amendment passed.

TUESDAY EVENING, Jany. 18th.

Brother Taylor, County Deputy, was announced and received by the Division. He, by request, installed the officers of the Division for the quarter.

Telegram received from the G. W. P. stating that he would meet the Division in special session, 26th inst.

SATURDAY EVENING, (Special Session,) Jan. 26th.

The G. W. P. was announced in waiting, he was received with due honours. The Grand Worthy Patriarch addressed the Division after an animated discussion. The Division adjourned without arriving at any definite decision.

SATURDAY EVENING, (Special Meeting,) March 23.

An interval of six months had nearly elapsed, when wearied with the persistency with which Deputy Heenan pressed his claims, and the warmth with which the discussions were carried on, night after night; to the exclusion of every other subject, I was forced to the conclusion that somebody must yield, and with this view I joined with bro. McMurray in trying to amicably settle the dispute.

Brother Morrison moved, brother Rev. J. McMurray seconded the following resolution :—

Resolved,—That the Worthy Patriarch of this Division be requested to address a communication to the G. W. P., respectfully assuring him that this Division has no disposition to pursue any course that might be deemed not constitutional or contumacious, and in proof of this that we will receive for our ensuing installation the Deputy, should he present himself in due course, but at the same time expressing to the G. W. P. our earnest hope that as he and the Deputy appointed by him have every reason to believe that the latter officer is obnoxious to this Division, there may be such changes effected in the appointment during the ensuing quarter, as may be acceptable to all concerned, and as may result in restoring harmony to this Division.

Resolved,—That the word “obnoxious” be struck out, and the words “not acceptable” be inserted.

Whereupon the resolution as amended, passed—but not unanimously.

I may here remark, that although I moved the above resolution, brother Rev. J. McMurray was the author of it, and I only moved it upon the condition that he would second it. I did not like its tone, and more especially the word “obnoxious,” as I personally entertain, as I am sure brother McMurray does, great respect for Mr. Heenan.

TUESDAY EVENING, April 12th.

This being the first meeting of the quarter, bro. Heenan, Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch, was announced in waiting, was introduced and received with all the honors of his station, and installed the following named officers :

Bro. Morrison, W. P.; Bro. Sturmy, A. R. S. Bro. A. M. King, Chap.; Bro. N. R. Alexander, F. S.; —— Craigin, A. C.; J. Robinson, O. S.

The following officers stated they were not prepared to be installed :
Bro. Sullivan, W. A.; Bro. J. B. McCormick, R. S.; Bro. F. W. Russell, T.; S. Reynolds, C.; Jas. Pace, I. S.

TUESDAY EVENING, April 19th.

The Lady Officers were installed by the D. G. W. P. Heenan.

The following resolution was moved by bro. A. Robinson seconded by brother Kline :—

Resolved,—That the officers not already installed, be now installed.

In amendment :—*

Resolved,—That the officers elect be allowed to express their reasons why they will not be installed. Both resolution and amendment were lost.

The W. P. ruled that the resolution passed was out of order, and that it was an error of judgment upon his part in putting it. Brother Russell appealed against the decision of the chair. The decision of the chair was not sustained.

I here contend that having received the Deputy, the Division had conformed to the constitution of the Grand Division † which says the G. W. P., or his Deputy shall personally visit each Division under his jurisdiction, at least once a quarter. I further contend that the G. W. P. or the Grand Division has no power to sacrifice a whole Division to the determination of a few members who would not be installed by the Deputy. If these members done wrong and the W. P. was powerless to deal with them as he was, the Deputy should have reported their conduct to the Grand Division.

TUESDAY EVENING, April 26th.

Brother Russell moved, and brother J. S. McCormick seconded :

Resolved,—That the W. P. vacate the chair, and the senior P.W.P. take the chair for the purpose of installing the officers not already installed. Passed.

* Movers' names not recorded upon the Minute Book.

† See Rule VI in the Appendix.

Brother McMurray gave notice that he would protest against the unconstitutionality of the proceedings.

Brother James Adams took the chair, and installed the remaining officers.

Here opens up a new feature in our difficulties ; we had received the Deputy, and up to this point acted constitutionally ; although we doubted the constitutionality of the Deputy's appointment. We believe Divisional deputies to be an innovation, unauthorized by the National Body. We also believe that the appointments of Deputies should be submitted to the annual session for confirmation ; we infer this from the wording of the commission itself, which commences with the words, "I _____ by, and with the consent of the G. D., do appoint _____ to be my Deputy." It must strike any one that this would be the proper mode of obtaining from among the representatives present, faithful and agreeable deputies. But did I err in permitting a Past Worthy Patriarch by resolution, to take the chair, when Deputy Heenan was in the room ? If I did, then, *why not* take action against me, and not the whole Division ?

TUESDAY EVENING, April 22nd.

Brother McMurray and seven other brothers presented a protest against the unconstitutionality of installing certain officers by a P.W.P. when the Deputy was present at the time.

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TUESDAY EVENING, May 7th.

" On opening the Division, the G. W. P. arose, and putting on his Regalia, demanded that the Worthy Patriarch should give him the chair. The W. P. declined, stating that if the G.W.P. had anything to bring before the Division, the Division would receive him with the honors due to his rank, and give him the P. W. P's. seat.

The Grand Worthy declined to be received thus. He then read some resolutions purporting to have been passed by the Grand Division at its quarterly session held at Berwick, and requested the Division's immediate compliance with them, or surrender its charter and other property.

The W. P. asked that copies of the resolutions passed by the Grand Division be furnished him. This was refused. The W.P. then

asked for a week to enable him to have a full meeting by a call of the Division, to consider the ultimatum of the G. W. P. This request was also refused, as well as any *discussion by the members*. The G.W.P. then declared the charter of Howard Division forfeited, and left the room.

Thus ceased to exist one of the oldest and most useful Divisions in this city. Thus nearly 200 persons were severed from fraternal intercourse with those with whom they have laboured for years. Thus a number of noble young men were turned adrift upon society, many of whom were innocent of any crime against your authority. God grant that they may not be ensnared by vice and temptation, will be the prayer of all true and loving Sons of Temperance. That we have the sympathy of sister City Divisions, I am glad to inform you. It cannot be otherwise; no brother can visit the Division or Reading rooms, without seeing the evidence of the taste of our members. The pictures that grace the walls—the organ that adds to the solemnity of initiations—the clock that warns of the passing hours, as well as many rare and valuable volumes that fill the library shelves, are memorials of the long tried brother whom we recommended to be our Deputy, and who has for several years held the position with perfect satisfaction to all concerned.

I do not desire to write one word that would give pain, nor take any liberty with names of brethren who have been instrumental in bringing about the crisis, it will be made known in *another* way. Let me assure you my whole attitude in the disagreement has been rather yielding. I accepted the office of W. P. in the hope that I might be able to persuade the members to yield up to you for the sake of harmony and peace, all disputed points. It is my conviction, had you accepted the terms suggested by Rev. brother McMurray and myself, to refer the subject in dispute to arbitration, the difficulty would have been amicably settled without wounding your self-respect, or compromising the dignity of your office.

I deny that you have the authority to declare the charter of Howard Division, under the circumstances, forfeited. In the appendix you will observe the Constitution and Bye-laws shield every Division as well as every member from hasty persecution. No doubt when you attentively peruse them, you will perceive that you have acted unwisely, if not unjustly, you will perceive that you have deprived us of the inherent right which is given to every member of the Order upon his initiation; that when he feels himself aggrieved at the decision of a subordinate body, he can appeal to a higher authority.

No Division in the jurisdiction would be safe if your power was so authoritative that you could enter any Division, and by pointing your finger at a Worthy Patriarch, declare the charter of his Division forfeited.

In conclusion, I ask did not common courtesy demand that I should be placed in possession of some official document from the Grand Division, to lay before my Division? Did not charity demand that a little time be given to the members of the Division, to accept or reject your request? I know not, the Division up to this moment knows not upon what information the Grand Division passed the resolutions which you read, and which you denied me a copy of. I need scarcely add that I shall maintain by every constitutional means the right of Howard Division, No. 26. And in doing so shall appeal to the sympathy of all Divisions.

With much respect,

Your humble servant.

E. MORRISON,

W.P. of Howard Division, and P.G.W. Associate.

T. M. KING, Esq., G. W. P., S. of T.

APPENDIX.

CONSTITUTION.—Rule XVIII.—*Any Division neglecting to comply with the rules and regulations of the Grand Division, shall forfeit its Charter and other property, if two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Grand Division concur therein. Provided, however, Subordinate Divisions in all cases shall have the right of appeal to the National Division.*

BYE-LAWS.—ARTICLE VI.—2. *The Grand Division shall give notice to the parties of all complaints and appeals to be tried before it, and shall allow all parties to be heard personally, or by writing, or by any member of the Grand Division, acting as counsel, as the Grand Division may deem most conducive to equity, and the interests of the Order.*

3. An appeal to the National Division against decisions of this Grand Division, shall not be in order in cases of appeal from the action of Subordinate Divisions, unless a notice in writing of such an appeal be given by the parties appealing, at the session when such decision was made.

